

CLAIMS:

1. A commercial package comprising;

means for determining the concentration of heme

5 oxygenase-1 (HO-1) and/or a nucleotide sequence encoding HO-1,
in bodily fluid or non-neural tissue obtained from a patient;
and

instructions for assessing a dementing disease in the
patient;

10 wherein said commercial package is used to predict the onset
of, diagnose, or prognosticate a dementing disease.

2. A commercial package comprising;

means for determining the concentration of heme

15 oxygenase-1 (HO-1) and/or a nucleotide sequence encoding HO-1,
in bodily fluid or non-neural tissue obtained from a patient;
and

instructions for comparing said concentration with the
corresponding concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding

20 nucleotide sequence in corresponding bodily fluid or non-neural
tissue obtained from at least one control person;

wherein a reduced concentration is used to predict the onset
of, diagnose, or prognosticate an Alzheimer dementing disease;

25 and wherein a concentration that is not reduced indicates that
the dementing disease is not an Alzheimer dementing disease.

3. The commercial package according to claim 1 wherein
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the
30 bodily fluid is selected from plasma and cerebrospinal fluid
and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts, or
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 encoding
nucleotide sequence and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes
and fibroblasts.

4. The commercial package according to claim 2 wherein
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the
bodily fluid is selected from plasma and cerebrospinal fluid
5 and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts, or
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 encoding
nucleotide sequence and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes
and fibroblasts.

10 5. A commercial package according to claim 3 wherein the
bodily fluid is plasma.

6. A commercial package according to claim 4 wherein the
bodily fluid is plasma.

15 7. The commercial package according to claim 3 wherein
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the
tissue is lymphocytes.

20 8. The commercial package according to claim 4 wherein
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the
tissue is lymphocytes.

25 9. The commercial package according to claim 3 wherein
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 mRNA and
the tissue is lymphocytes.

30 10. The commercial package according to claim 4 wherein
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 mRNA and
the tissue is lymphocytes.

11. The commercial package according to claim 1 wherein
the dementing disease is selected from the group consisting

of Alzheimer's Disease, Age-Associated Cognitive Decline, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Vascular (i.e. multi-infarct) Dementia, Lewy Body Dementia, Huntington's Disease, Down's syndrome, normal pressure hydrocephalus, corticobasal ganglionic degeneration, multisystem atrophy, head trauma, Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, viral encephalitis and hypothyroidism.

12. The commercial package according to claim 2 wherein
10 the dementing disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's Disease, Age-Associated Cognitive Decline, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Vascular (i.e. multi-infarct) Dementia, Lewy Body Dementia, Huntington's Disease, Down's syndrome, normal pressure hydrocephalus, corticobasal ganglionic degeneration, multisystem atrophy, head trauma, Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, viral encephalitis and hypothyroidism.

13. The commercial package according to claim 2 wherein
20 the at least one control person is a normal age-matched person.

14. The commercial package according to claim 2 wherein
the at least one control person is the patient from whom the
corresponding concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding
25 nucleotide sequence in bodily fluid and non-neural tissue was
obtained at an earlier date, and the commercial package is used
to prognosticate a dementing disease.

15. A commercial package comprising means for determining
30 the concentration of heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) and/or a
nucleotide sequence encoding HO-1, in bodily fluid or tissue
obtained from a patient, and instructions for comparing said
concentration with an established standard of the corresponding
concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding nucleotide

sequence in corresponding bodily fluid or tissue obtained from at least one normal age-matched control person or from the patient at an earlier time.

5 16. The commercial package according to claim 15 wherein
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the
bodily fluid is selected from plasma and cerebrospinal fluid
and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts, or
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 encoding
10 nucleotide sequence and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes
and fibroblasts.

17. A commercial package according to claim 16 wherein
the bodily fluid is plasma.

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18. The commercial package according to claim 16 wherein
the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 or HO-1
mRNA and the tissue is lymphocytes.

20 19. The commercial package of claim 15 wherein the
corresponding bodily fluid or tissue is obtained from at least
one normal age-matched control person.

25 20. The commercial package of claim 15 wherein the
corresponding bodily fluid or tissue is obtained from the
patient at an earlier time.